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ON THE INS AND OUTS OF TRAVEL



[Home](#) > [Anders Meanders](#) > [Archives](#) > [2007](#) > [April](#) > [11](#) > [Entry](#)

The Wednesday deal: San Diego

By [Helen Anders](#) | **Wednesday, April 11, 2007, 11:21 AM**

Ah, sunny San Diego. Anytime the weather's bad wherever you live, go there. It's almost always a balmy 70 degrees and filled with great seafood and stuff to do (a zoo with pandas, the great beach at Coronado, La Jolla, etc.).

Trouble is, it can be hard to find an affordable place to stay. Here's one that opened in January: The [Sofia Hotel](#). It's at Front Street and Broadway, so you can walk to the Gasmap Quarter's restaurants and clubs from there. What? You say that sounds like the ancient Pickwick? Yup, that's it, but you'd never know it. The owners spent \$16 mil spiffing it up into a cool spot with contemporary rooms with top linens and a new spa and 24-hour yoga studio. And it just made the list of National Trust Historic Hotels of America, so you get the 1926 exterior with all the 2007 amenities. Best of all, rooms start at \$149 a night, and there are pet-friendly packages. Check it out.

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